**DATE [no later than August 7, 2018]**

Ms. Jennifer Jessup

Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer

Department of Commerce

Room 6616

14th and Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20230

Submitted [via regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=USBC-2018-0005)

RE: Comments on Proposed Information Collection on 2020 Census

[ORGANIZATION NAME] writes in response to the June 8, 2018 notice in the Federal Register requesting comments on the 2020 Census proposed information collection. **We urge the Department of Commerce to withdraw the citizenship question from the 2020 Census questionnaire, as it will significantly undermine efforts to achieve a fair and accurate census.** Community foundations (CFs) have a unique perspective on why an accurate Census is vital to all communities.

As you may know, CFs are tax-exempt public charities serving people who share a common interest in improving the quality of life in their geographic area.

As the philanthropic hub in our communities, CFs bring together the financial resources of individuals, families, and businesses to support charitable organizations dedicated to improving the lives of those most in need.  We know a fair and accurate Census is a crucial prerequisite for serving the needs of marginalized communities. Past Censuses have tended to undercount communities of color, people in poverty, young children, and rural residents. The systematic undercounting of these communities decreases their access to federal funding and accurate Congressional representation.

Many of the programs that help to mend the gaps in our society and allow all to live in dignity depend on data from the Census. An accurate Census is vital for funding of:

* Rural business and industry development loans
* Job training and other employment programs
* Health care for infants and children
* Child care for low-income and working families
* Water and waste disposal systems
* Policing agencies and community-based entities working to reduce crime
* Monitoring and enforcing discrimination laws under the Civil Rights Act
* Local agencies for food, health care, and legal services for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities

We are concerned adding the citizenship question would seriously threaten Census accuracy and substantially increase costs while decreasing participation, which will harm the vulnerable populations we are here to serve.

Thank you for your attention to our comments.

Sincerely,

[NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE]